

SITUATION REPORT NO. 15
INCIDENT NO. 97-003
DATE: January 27, 1997 TIME: 12:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Winter storms and blizzard conditions statewide.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: Gusty winds predicted for January 27 promise to continue plaguing snow removal efforts. The National Weather Service forecast calls for a high pressure system to move through North Dakota with northwest winds of up to 25 miles per hour (mph).. Gusty winds will cause blowing and drifting snow in southwest, central and eastern North Dakota. The wind chill could drop to 60 below.

The National Guard reported that icy road conditions contributed to two accidents involving support vehicles. No one was injured in either accident.
4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Mike Armstrong, Region VIII Director for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is scheduled to arrive in Bismarck late January 27. He will meet with state officials and FEMA staff.

The joint State/Federal Disaster Field Office (DFO), 600 South Second Street, Bismarck, became operational on January 24. The DFO is staffed by more than 30 state and federal employees. FEMA and the N.D. Division of Emergency Management established the office to provide command and administrative support for blizzard response efforts throughout the state. State disaster response efforts will continue at the State EOC.

Snow removal crews continued efforts on January 25-26 to obtain emergency access for all North Dakota residents and to push back snow, reducing the chance for roads to become blocked again. Of the counties still working to obtain access, Grant County has 20 homes and Dickey had five homes without emergency access.

The N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) reported all state roads have been cleared of snow. Present activities include widening cuts and pushing back snow. The N.D. National Guard plans to activate three new snow removal missions on January 27, bringing the total number of missions underway to 29. Barnes County will receive the additional support of five dump trucks and one loader. Two dozers will be assigned each to Eddy and LaMoure Counties. Of the 29 missions, eight are staffed by U.S. Air Force personnel. In addition to these missions, the National Guard is also tracking four N.D. DOT snow blower missions. Staffing for the National Guard and N.D. DOT missions includes: 79 Army Guard, 16 Air Guard, 24 Air Force and six N.D. DOT staff members. Equipment in operation includes 26 dozers, 16 snow blowers, 27 tractor-trailers, 23 support vehicles, 11 dump trucks, seven loaders and one grader. Since operations began January 13, the National Guard has completed 22 missions. The latest mission was completed January 25 in Eddy County, where three dump trucks, one loader and one support vehicle had been assigned to assist snow removal efforts in the city of Sheyenne. National Guard personnel are evaluating 10 requests for additional missions.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports and photos of snow removal efforts are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director